

ZACHARIAH T. BRYANT.

JANUARY 26, 1904.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. FULLER, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 6881.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 6881) to pension Zachariah T. Bryant, submit the following report:

This bill proposes to increase the pension of the soldier named therein from \$6 to \$25 per month.

Mr. Bryant, who is now 57 years of age, served as a private in Company H, Fifty-fourth Indiana Infantry, from June 11, 1862, to September 26, 1862, when mustered out with his company.

He again served as a private in Company L, Third Indiana Cavalry, from July 24, 1863, to August 9, 1865, when honorably discharged.

The prisoner-of-war records show that he was captured at Lumber River, North Carolina, March 7, 1865; that he was confined at Richmond, Va., March 30, 1865; paroled April 2, 1865; sent to Camp Chase, Ohio, April 2, 1865, and that he was furloughed from that place for thirty days on April 21, 1865.

Medical records of the War Department furnish no evidence of treatment.

He claimed pension in 1884 on account of disease of throat and lungs as a result of exposure while a prisoner of war, and was pensioned on account of disease of respiratory organs at \$2 per month from December 16, 1884; at \$4 from January 20, 1892, and at \$6 from March 2, 1895.

In 1897 he made a claim on account of additional disabilities, namely, catarrh and deafness, also alleged as results of exposure while a prisoner of war. This claim was rejected in February, 1902, on the ground of no record of treatment while in the service and no medical or other competent evidence showing origin in the service or continuance for years after discharge.

A claim for increase of pension on account of the pensioned causes was also rejected in March, 1902, upon the ground that the disability from disease of throat and lungs did not warrant a rating in excess of \$6 per month.

The action of the Pension Bureau rejecting the claim on account of the additional disabilities was affirmed by Assistant Secretary Miller on October 20, 1903, who stated in his decision as follows:

The evidence shows that the appellant was taken prisoner near Fayetteville, N. C., about the 7th of March, 1865, and was compelled to march on foot through mud and rain something like 100 miles; was confined in prisons at Salisbury, N. C., and Danville and Richmond, Va., until April 2, 1865, when he was paroled and reported at College Green Barracks, Md., April 4, 1865; sent to Camp Chase, Ohio, April 6, 1865, and was furloughed therefrom April 21, 1865, for thirty days.

It appears that while he was at Salisbury prison he had a very bad cold and after he was paroled he got worse, had some fever and a cough, and was cared for by a comrade until he was furloughed from Camp Chase. After his discharge, for some years he had reasonably good health but was troubled more or less with a cough.

There is some lay testimony tending to show that claimant has suffered from catarrh since discharge and from deafness since 1877, but there is no record nor medical testimony showing incurrence of or treatment for catarrh or deafness in the service or the existence of either catarrh or deafness at discharge, or for several years thereafter.

When last examined on June 6, 1900, the board of surgeons rated him \$8 for disease of respiratory organs, \$6 for catarrh, and \$10 for sciatic rheumatism.

The board of surgeons then stated that his hearing was not impaired.

The statement of Dr. J. C. Booth of Lebanon, Oreg., filed with your committee, sets forth that the beneficiary to-day is nearly deaf and that he was greatly in need of Government help.

Your committee believes that the deafness from which this soldier is now suffering is a result of catarrh and due to his military service, and that hence relief to the extent of increasing his pension to \$24 per month is justified.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended after the same shall have been amended as follows:

In line 7, before the word "cavalry," insert the word "volunteer."

In line 8 strike out the word "five" and insert in lieu thereof the word "four."

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill granting an increase of pension to Zachariah T. Bryant."